



The Hour

NUMBER 133

MAY 2, 1942

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Number 133

May 2, 1942

SENATOR ROBERT R. REYNOLDS WAS MEMBER OF GROUP FINANCED BY GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK

Present Chairman of Senate Military Affairs Committee
Aided Paid Nazi Agent in Spreading Appeasement Propaganda

The Hour is reliably informed that Senator Robert R. Reynolds, Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, was a key member of three mysterious committees formed in Congress under the supervision and with the financial aid of George Sylvester Viereck, the paid Nazi agent who was sentenced on March 13 to a term of 2-6 years imprisonment for improper registration as a foreign agent. The names of these committees, which were set up prior to the entry of the United States into the war, were Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee, War Debts Defense Committee, and Islands for War Debts Committee.

Consisting chiefly of the same few hand-picked senators and congressmen, each of the committees concentrated on spreading propaganda promoting the isolationist cause and attacking the defense program of the Administration. The Third Reich regarded this propaganda work as being important enough to merit considerable financial support, and Hitler's hireling Viereck transmitted large Nazi funds to the committees. As a matter of fact, Viereck is to be credited with actually organizing the committees. It was under his shrewd guidance that Senator Ernest Lundeen -- whose appeasement speeches Viereck was writing at the time -- became Chairman of the committees; and Prescott Dennett, notorious Axis propagandist and Viereck's errand boy in Washington, served as Treasurer. One of the U. S. Government charges on the basis of which Viereck was sentenced to prison was that he had failed to inform the U. S. State Department of his having,

"Advised, consulted and informed, directly and indirectly, one Prescott Dennett and divers other persons in matters pertaining to political interests, public relations and public policy by aiding, abetting and assisting the said Prescott Dennett and divers other persons in the operation and work of certain committees known as and by the name and style of "Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee," "Islands For War Debts Committee" and "War Debts Defense Committee," and by contributing large sums of money for the maintenance of and to defray the expenses of the said committees ..."

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The small and highly confidential lists of the members of these committees have never been made public, but The Hour is now able to reveal that Senator Robert R. Reynolds was one of the charter members.

In the light of his membership in those Viereck-sponsored propaganda groups, Reynolds' current activities assume a sinister significance.

Reynolds' Role Today

On April 18 The Hour disclosed that the ruddy-faced Senator from North Carolina is actively sponsoring the seditious propaganda efforts of Gerald L. K. Smith, ex-Silver Shirts No. 3223. We reported that Smith, who once boasted of having formed "the first Silver Shirt storm-troop in America," is now distributing the reproduction of a letter he recently received from Senator Reynolds -- a letter in which the Senator congratulates the Detroit fifth columnist on his latest subversive publication, The Cross and The Flag. (We also reported that Smith had received similar expressions of approval from Senator Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota and Representative Roy O. Woodruff of Michigan.)

On April 23 the New York Herald Tribune carried a front-page story headlined, "Now Gerald Smith Paper Gets Reynolds and Nye Indorsements," confirming our exposé and further revealing that Senators Reynolds and Nye had in fact given Smith permission to incorporate some of their writings into his seditious sheet. Later, an Associated Press dispatch from Washington reported that Reynolds and Nye, when questioned, had admitted their indorsements of The Cross and The Flag. The dispatch quotes Reynolds as saying: "I have no apologies to offer for indorsing the program of any individual or group standing for the things I have stood for for many years. I would do the same thing if it were John Jones or Henry Smith."

What Reynolds Stands For

When Senator Reynolds says he stands for the things that Gerald Smith stands for, he is not exaggerating. It was with good reason that the Nazi-gangster Fritz Kuhn, while still Fuehrer of the German-American Bund, declared on May 6, 1939, after a speech given by Senator Reynolds at the Hotel Astor in New York City: "I liked the speech very well. I would underline everything he says." (See New York Times, May 7, 1939.)

Senator Reynolds has received similar praise from every corner of the fifth column underworld. William Dudley Pelley, who was sentenced in January to three years in jail, consistently devoted large sections of his pro-Nazi publication, Liberation, to lauding Reynolds' anti-democratic views; and it was the proud assertion of the head of the Silver Shirts that Reynolds "espouses a duplication of Pelley's movement." Early in 1940, the Christian Front, following the example of its pro-Axis boss Father Coughlin, gave a blanket indorsement to the program of the North Carolinian Senator (see The Hour for February 3, 1940). The American Nationalist Confederation, whose stationery was appropriately marked with a swastika, kept at its headquarters a liberal supply of Senator Reynolds' official envelopes, in which reprints of his speeches were regularly mailed out. George Deatherage, the Naziphile who was recently fired from a naval

project at Norfolk, Virginia, carried on a friendly correspondence with Reynolds and openly expressed his complete sympathy with the Senator's aims. Edward James Smythe, John Cecil, Cathrine Curtis, John B. Trevor, Joseph E. McWilliams -- these and dozens more of America's motley crew of petty-fuehrers have been warm admirers of "Our Bob," as they fondly call him, and have not infrequently entered into close collaboration with him.

There is not a living American traitor worth mentioning who has not indorsed the present Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

Of course, Senator Reynolds is quite a distinguished Fuehrer himself. As founder and leader of the American Vindicators, a fascist vigilante organization which specializes in labor- and alien-baiting, he has been publishing since April, 1939, a violently anti-democratic, anti-Semitic monthly called The American Vindicator. The Nazi character of Reynolds' band is indicated in this extract from a letter written by its National Secretary to a prospective organizer: "There are absolutely no Jews attached to the membership of this organization."

Aiding the Nazis

On February 5, 1939, Adolph Hitler's official newspaper, the Volksischer Beobachter, featured a story carrying the by-line "Senator Robert R. Reynolds, North Carolina." The piece, which was in the form of an interview given by the Senator, was entitled, "Advice to Roosevelt; Stick to Your Knitting." The interview bore a Washington dateline but, interestingly enough, the only paper in the United States which published the item was the Deutsche Weckruf und Beobachter, organ of the German-American Bund.

It has been a custom of long standing for the Axis to give Senator Reynolds favorable publicity, and for him to reciprocate by doing the same for them. In the above mentioned interview he declared with obvious satisfaction: "There was a time when John Bull needed only to say 'Booh' to set the whole world afright but that time is gone forever. Hitler and Mussolini have brought John Bull down on his knees ..."

On the floor of the United States Senate, the Honorable Robert Reynolds has frequently made such remarks as, "Hitler and Mussolini have a date with Destiny. It's foolish to oppose them, so why not play ball with them?"

When the Senator visited the Third Reich in 1938, he was most enthusiastically welcomed by high Nazi officials; and when he returned to this country, he spoke in glowing terms of Germany and Italy, describing them as lands of prosperity and happiness. Concerning the invasion of Czechoslovakia, he casually remarked: "Hitler went over and took land in the way that sometimes the boys in Texas and North Carolina used to move a fence with the aid of a shotgun, instead of doing it legally by the way of a surveyor -- that's all Hitler did."

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And when it came to a question of fighting Axis aggression, Senator Reynolds declared, "I can see no reason why the youth of this country should be uniformed to save the so-called democracies of Europe -- imperialistic Britain and communistic France," and, parroting Nazi propaganda still more obviously, "I am glad to be able to state without the least hesitation that I am absolutely against the United States waging war for the purpose of protecting the Jews anywhere in the world." (International News Service, February 3, 1939)

The United States is at war, and yet Senator Robert Reynolds continues to aid such enemies within as Gerald L. K. Smith, whose seditious propaganda aims at sabotaging the nation's war effort and assisting the Axis foe.

Hitler, Hirohito and Mussolini have reason to be well satisfied with the present Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the United States Senate.

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THIRD ANNIVERSARY

With this issue, The Hour enters its fourth year of publication. Our newsletter was launched on April 30, 1939, as the official organ of the American Council Against Nazi Propaganda, of which the late Dr. William E. Dodd, former Ambassador to Germany, was Chairman. Its chief purpose then, as now, was to supply journalists and radio news-commentators with confidential material regarding the machinations of fifth column groups and individuals in the United States.

During the last three years, The Hour has carried a number of news-scoops on subversive activities in this country. Among them have been the following:

The Hour was the first to reveal, on June 30, 1939, that the National Workers League was the most active of the Hitler-inspired groups in Detroit; we named Parker Sage as the man behind this band. On January 8, 1942, the offices of the National Workers League were raided and closed by government agents. On April 16, 1942, Parker Sage was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for un-American activities.

The Hour was the first to reveal on July 30, 1939, the sinister background and the subversive work of Count Anastase Vonsiatsky of Thompson, Connecticut. In November, 1941, the U. S. Government froze the funds of Vonsiatsky.

The Hour was the first to reveal, on August 30, 1939, that Assistant Professor Otto Koischwitz, German-language teacher at Hunter College in New York City, was a Nazi propaganda agent. On July 14, 1940, Walter Winchell reported that Otto Koischwitz had gone to Germany and was serving as a propaganda speaker for the official Nazi short-wave broadcasts to the United States.

The Hour was the first to reveal, on September 16, 1939, the Nazi activities of Ernst Goerner of Milwaukee. FBI agents arrested him on August 9, 1941.

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The Hour was the first to reveal, on September 23, 1939, the pro-Axis propaganda work of Dr. Friedrich Auhagen. He was indicted on March 3, 1941, by a Federal Grand Jury and on July 11, 1941, was sentenced to 8 months to 2 years imprisonment.

The Hour was the first to reveal, on April 6, 1940, that Herr Gerhard Westrick had arrived in the United States on a secret mission for the Nazis. On August 20, 1940, public pressure forced Westrick's departure from this country.

The Hour was the first to reveal, on July 27, 1940, that Monsignor Ivan Buchko, acting as an emissary from Berlin, was supervising the activities of Nazi-Ukrainians in the United States. Monsignor Buchko departed from this country, at the request of the U. S. authorities, on November 6, 1941.

The Hour was the first to reveal, on December 14, 1940, the Nazi character of the Ukrainian-language newspaper, Svoboda. FBI agents raided the office of Svoboda on January 6, 1942.

The Hour was the first to reveal, on November 23, 1940, the Japanese propaganda activities of Ralph Townsend. On January 28, 1942, Townsend was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for failure to register as a Japanese propaganda agent.

The Hour was the first to reveal, on May 24, 1941, that the N. Y. diamond merchant Werner C. von Clemm was smuggling precious stones into the United States, in collusion with high officials of the Third Reich, for purposes of financing Nazi activity in this country. On January 28, 1942, Von Clemm was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on charges of conspiring with the German High Command to smuggle illegal shipments of gems into the United States.

The Hour was first to reveal, on November 29, 1941, that Paul Scheffer, ace Nazi espionage and sabotage agent, had set up headquarters in New York City. In December, 1941, Scheffer fled from the United States.

The Hour was the first to urge, on January 21, 1942, that Social Justice be suppressed on the grounds that it had published seditious material since the entry of the United States into the war. On April 14, 1942, Coughlin's magazine was banned from the mails because of its seditious content.

With the United States at war, it becomes all the more imperative to root out the enemies within. The Hour hopes to continue to expose with increasing effectiveness Axis fifth columnists and their traitorous accomplices in this country.
